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LETTER DATED 8 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to my letter dated 4 May 1995, in which we raised concerns and expressed our dissatisfaction over the transfer of civilian refugees and paramilitary Serb forces from Croatia into the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina without the knowledge or consent of my Government, we regret to inform you that this action has produced some far-reaching consequences beyond the violation of our territorial integrity and sovereignty.

First, this transfer has brought Croatian Serbs into the Pale Serb ethnically cleansed and occupied region of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We still remember that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have, wittingly or unwittingly, abetted the Pale Serbs in transporting forcefully expelled Bosniacs and Bosnian Croats from this same region. With this latest transfer of Croatian Serbs into Bosnia and Herzegovina, the vicious circle of ethnic cleansing is successfully closing.

These actions, maybe coincidentally, have been followed by new crimes against the Bosnian population in the Banja Luka region.

Serb militants, on the night of 6 to 7 May, destroyed with heavy explosives the Church of St. Anthony of Padua in the Banja Luka suburb of Petricevac, while a Franciscan monastery and a three-centuries-old library, both adjacent to the church, were set afire and burned beyond repair. In this attack, Father Alojzije Atlija, a Franciscan priest, lost his life. The same night another Roman Catholic church in the village Sarpovac at the outskirts of the city of Banja Luka was set afire and reduced to ashes.

This is the latest Serbian addition to the already impressive record of 37 churches destroyed, 38 damaged, and 24 parish buildings reduced to rubble, 4 priests killed, 400 Catholic constituents murdered and 55,000 Bosnian Croats from this region expelled from their homes and made refugees. We do not here recount the Serbian atrocities against the Muslim, Gypsy and "other" populations within the same part of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as those crimes inflicted upon their own Serb ethnic brethren.

This brand of Serbian terror in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the control of the Pale Serbs has not been adequately responded to by UNPROFOR, despite previous commitments. The Security Council must therefore take effective measures to address this issue.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Permanent Representative